

A bill (S. 1751) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings.

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 117, S. 274, the class action fairness legislation. I further ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 1751 be inserted in lieu thereof; further, that the language be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. 1751, Senator GRASSLEY's class action bill, which is now on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I object.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that it now be in order to make a motion to proceed to S. 1751.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I now move to proceed to S. 1751, and I further ask unanimous consent that the motion be temporarily set aside and that the Senate resume consideration of the motion on Monday, October 20, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CEMETERY EXPANSION ACT OF 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 307, H.R. 1516.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1516) to provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of five additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

[Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.]

H.R. 1516

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than four years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in accordance with chapter 24 of title 38, United States Code, shall establish ~~[five]~~ *six* new national cemeteries. The new cemeteries shall be located in the following locations (those locations having been determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be the most appropriate locations for new national cemeteries):

- (1) Southeastern Pennsylvania.
- (2) The Birmingham, Alabama, area.
- (3) The Jacksonville, Florida, area.
- (4) The Bakersfield, California, area.
- (5) The Greenville/Columbia, South Carolina, area.

(6) *The Sarasota County, Florida, area.*

(b) FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2003 for Advance Planning shall be available for the purposes of subsection (a).

(c) SITE SELECTION PROCESS.—In determining the specific sites for the new cemeteries required by subsection (a) within the locations specified in that subsection, the Secretary shall solicit the advice and views of representatives of State and local veterans organizations and other individuals as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the establishment of the national cemeteries required by subsection (a). The report shall—

(1) set forth a schedule for the establishment of each such cemetery and an estimate of the costs associated with the establishment of each such cemetery; and

(2) identify the amount of Advance Planning Funds obligated for purposes of this section as of the submission of the report.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on the implementation of this section until the establishment of all ~~[five]~~ *six* cemeteries is completed and each such cemetery has opened. The Secretary shall include in each such annual report an update of the information provided under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d).

(f) DEFINITION OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA.—In this section, the term "southeastern Pennsylvania" means the city of Philadelphia and Berks County, Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Philadelphia County, and Montgomery County in the State of Pennsylvania.

Amend the title to read: "An Act to provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration."

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendments be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1516), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1516) entitled "An Act

to provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of five additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery System," do pass with the following amendments:

(1) Page 2, line 8, strike out ~~[five]~~ and insert: *six*

(2) Page 2, after line 18, insert:

(6) *The Sarasota County, Florida, area.*

(3) Page 3, line 17, strike out ~~[five]~~ and insert: *six*

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to provide for the establishment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of additional cemeteries in the National Cemetery Administration."

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1900) to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1900) was read the third time and passed.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 311, S. 300.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 300) to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to Jackie Robinson—a great ballplayer, great leader and a great American.

Most Americans know of Jackie Robinson's baseball greatness. He was the 1947 Rookie of the Year; the National League Most Valuable Player in 1949; he lead the Dodgers to six pennants and one World Series; he batted over 300 for his career; and he was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962.

But there is, of course, far more to the story of Jackie Robinson than talent and success on the baseball diamond.